

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

HA-05 /068 W

-----028123 242251Z /70

P 242228Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8903

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PE EC

SUBJECT: PERU-ECUADOR BORDER ISSUE

1. I REAISED THE PERU-ECUADOR BORDER ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR WIELAND, NUMBER THREE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AT A RECEPTION AND WE CONTINUED THE DISCUSSION IN HIS OFFICE FEBRUARY 24.

2. I STATED OUR VIEW THAT THIS BORDER ISSUE WHOULD BE RETURNED TO PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS AND NOT CONTINUE TO BE DEBATED PUBLICLY. I ALSO NOTED THE POTENTIAL USEFULNESS OF FRIENDLY PUBLIC EXCHANGES SUCH AS THE OLMEDO VISIT. WIELAND AGREED COMPLETELY AND CONFIRMED THAT THE OLMEDO VISIT HAD ONLY BEEN DELAYED TWO WEEKS AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE TO COINCIDE WITH THE VISIT OF THE ECUADOREAN TRAINING VESSEL.

3. WIELAND WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE GOP HOPED TO GET THE DIALOGUE WITH ECUADOR BACK ON A CONSTRUCTIVE TRACK BY FIRST REESTABLISHING CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY COMMANDS. THIS WAS THE PERUVIAN INITIATIVE
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RICHTER PRADA TOOK TO HIS ECUADOREAN COUNTERPART A FEW WEEKS AGO AND IT WAS REITERATED IN MEETINGS LAST WEEK BETWEEN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. WIELAND SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE MADE YET BY ECUADOR BUT THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE FULLY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY COMMAND. HE ADDED THAT ONCE CLOSER MILITARY

COOPERATION WERE REESTABLISHED IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER
TO MAKE PROGRESS ON TRANSPORT AND OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION.

4. AS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATION OF THE BORDER ISSUE,
WIELAND WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS IN COMING
MONTHS IN VIEW OF THE TRANSITIONAL NATURE OF THE CURRENT
GOE.

5. WHEN I ASKED OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF FONMIN DE LA
PUENTE'S SPEECH LAST WEEK JUSTIFYING PERUVIAN ARMS
PURCHASES, WIELAND GAVE A LENGTHY HISTORICAL EXPLANATION
MOSTLY RELATED TO CHILE, AND MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE
CURRENT BORDER PROBLEM WITH PERU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA01719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0934
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780217/aaaaaogl.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58cf38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3489512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERU-ECUADOR BORDER ISSUE
TAGS: PBOR, PE, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58cf38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014